

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/AU03/01005

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
Int. Cl. ⁷ : G01N 11/00, 3/32		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) DWPI, JAPIO: rheometer, viscometer, vibrate, oscillate, plate, frequency, sweep, group delay, coat, ramp, complex and similar terms		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 3933032 A (TSCHOEGL) 20 January 1976 Abstract; column 3 lines 5-24, figures	
A	WO 90/08309 A (KRAMER) 26 July 1990 Page 4 line 15-page 5 line 6, page 9 lines 19-36	
A	FR 2806804 A (LABORATOIRE INNOTHERA S.A.) 28 September 2001 Page 3 line 1-page 5 line 13, figures	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex		
<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p>		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 26 September 2003		Date of mailing of the international search report - 3 OCT 2003
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929		Authorized officer GREG POWELL Telephone No : (02) 6283 2308

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C (Continuation).

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, A	WO 02/086462 A (COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION) 31 October 2002 Page 4 line 6-page 5 line 28, figure	

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos :
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos :
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos :
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

See separate sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims
2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of Boxes I to VIII is not sufficient)

Continuation of Box II:

The international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. In coming to this conclusion the International Searching Authority has found that there are different inventions as follows:

1. Claims 1-26 are directed to a rheometer having a driver applying alternating movement to a sample's surface, force measuring device, displacement measuring device and a processor receiving the signals from the force and displacement measuring devices to determine the rheological property of the sample. A signal generator supplies the driver with a frequency sweep signal having a monotonic group delay. It is considered that these features comprise a first "special technical feature".
2. Claims 27-38 are directed to a rheometer having a driver applying alternating movement to a sample's surface, force measuring device, displacement measuring device and a processor receiving the signals from the force and displacement measuring devices to determine the rheological property of the sample. The sample is contained between two spaced parallel plates, and the driver drives one of these plates. One of the plates has a surface coating that allows the sample to extend up the plate's sidewall forming a concave meniscus. It is considered that these features comprise a second "special technical feature".
3. Claims 39-47 are directed to a rheometer having a driver applying alternating movement to a sample's surface, force measuring device, displacement measuring device and a processor receiving the signals from the force and displacement measuring devices to determine the rheological property of the sample. The sample is contained between two spaced parallel plates, and the driver drives one of these plates via a connecting member. A temperature controller controls the temperature of the sample, and the connecting member is made of a material having a low coefficient of thermal expansion, so that the spacing between the parallel plates does not alter as the sample's temperature changes. It is considered that these features comprise a third "special technical feature".
4. Claims 48-53 are directed to a rheometer having a driver applying alternating movement to a sample's surface, force measuring device, displacement measuring device and a processor receiving the signals from the force and displacement measuring devices to determine the rheological property of the sample. A signal generator supplies the driver with a signal that gradually increases in amplitude at its start and gradually decreases at its end. It is considered that these features comprise a fourth "special technical feature".

These groups are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept, that is, they do not have any common inventive features, which define a contribution over the prior art. The common concept linking together these groups of claims is a rheometer having a driver applying alternating movement to a sample's surface, force measuring device, displacement measuring device and a processor receiving the signals from the force and displacement measuring devices to determine the rheological property of the sample.. However this concept is not novel in the light of the documents cited in the ISR. Therefore these claims lack unity a posteriori.

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Information on patent family members

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This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report			Patent Family Member	
US	3933032	NONE		
WO	90/08309	EP	454737	US 5269190
FR	2806804	NONE		
WO	02/086462	AU	2002248976	
				END OF ANNEX